

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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S E C R E T STATE 262308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MBFR, UN, SW

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF ARMS CONTROL ISSUES WITH SWEDISH DCM
ECKERBERG

REF: STOCKHOLM 5678

1. SWEDISH MINISTER (LENNART ECKERBERG) MET WITH ACDA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SLOSS) ON OCTOBER 20 TO DISCUSS VARIOUS
ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, INCLUDING MBFR AND UN DISARMAMENT DE-
BATE.

2. MBFR: WITH RESPECT TO MBFR, SLOSS REFERRED TO THE CON-
VERSATION BETWEEN LOWENSTEIN AND LEIFLAN IN STOCKHOLM RE-
GARDING BRIEFING OF THE SWEDES (REFTEL). SLOSS SAID THAT

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ACDA WAS PREPARED TO BRIEF SWEDISH OFFICIALS ON MBFR HERE

WHENEVER THIS SEEMED APPROPRIATE. ECKERBERG REMINDED US OF DISCUSSION WE HAD HAD ON THIS SUBJECT ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO AT HIS INITIATION. SLOSS STRESSED THAT THE US DELEGATION IN VIENNA WAS ALSO PREPARED PERIODICALLY TO KEEP SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVES THERE ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS IN MBFR. HE URGED THAT THE SWEDES TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CONTACT THE MBFR DELEGATION BUT DID NOT COMMIT THE DELEGATION TO TAKE INITIATIVES THEMSELVES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM ECKERBERG, SLOSS DESCRIBED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE TALKS AND THE

MAJOR ISSUES ON WHICH THE EAST AND WEST DIFFERED BUT WITHOUT DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE FRENCH PROBLEM. ECKERBERG WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN OUR ESTIMATE OF PROGRESS THAT MIGHT BE MADE PRIOR TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON CSCE. WE REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE ANY FIRM PREDICTIONS BUT THAT WE CERTAINLY ANTICIPATED PROGRESS TOWARDS RESOLVING SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. TAKING UP ECKERBERG'S REFERENCE TO BELGRADE, SLOSS POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH MADE FOR SLOW GOING IN MBFR WAS THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED AND THAT CLOSER PARTICIPATION BY OTHER COUNTRIES NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO MORE RAPID PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. ECKERBERG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE UPDATE AND FOR THE OFFER OF FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND VIENNA. WE REITERATED THE DESIRABILITY OF THEIR EMBASSY IN VIENNA TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO CONTACT US MBFR DELEGATION.

3. UNGA: ECKERBERG, WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS SWEDISH CCD REPRESENTATIVE, ALSO EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE VARIOUS ARMS CONTROL ISSUES THAT WILL BE COMING UP AT THE CURRENT UNGA. HE SAID THAT INGA THORSSON, WHO HAS SERVED AS SWEDISH CCD REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, WILL BE COMING TO NEW YORK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE DISARMAMENT DEBATE. AFTER THE RECENT SWEDISH ELECTIONS, IN WHICH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WERE DEFEATED, THORSSON INDICATED AN INTEREST IN CONTINUING HER WORK IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT. ECKERBERG SAID THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER PALME HAD AT FIRST DEMURRED, BUT THEN WITHDREW HIS OBJECTION. SINCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND THE SOCIAL

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DEMOCRATS SEE EYE TO EYE ON VIRTUALLY ALL DISARMAMENT ISSUES, ECKERBERG SUGGESTED THAT RETAINING THE SERVICES OF THORSSON, A PROMINENT SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, WAS AN INDICATION THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WISHED TO SIGNAL CONTINUITY IN THIS FIELD.

4. SLOSS RECALLED THAT THORSSON HAD CHAIRED THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE IN MAY 1975 AND SUGGESTED THAT SHE MIGHT TAKE

THE LEAD IN WORKING FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME ON THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE CURRENT UN SESSION. SLOSS SAID THAT DIVISIVE DEBATE AND CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE COULD SERIOUSLY IMPAIR NON-PROLIFERATION AND THE NPT REGIME. RATHER THAN HAVE THE VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS BREAK OFF AND WORK INDIVIDUALLY ON COMPETING RESOLUTIONS, HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER TO AIM FOR A GENERAL, BALANCED RESOLUTION THAT COULD ENJOY BROAD SUPPORT.

5. ECKERBERG AGREED THAT THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS ISSUE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT TO STOCKHOLM THE US INTEREST IN WORKING WITH SWEDEN AND OTHERS TO ACHIEVE A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME ON THIS ISSUE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES, ECKERBERG SAID THAT SWEDEN WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, BUT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SUPPORT IT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PREPARATORY WORK. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT SWEDEN REMAINED VERY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING PROGRESS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN AND ON ELIMINATING CHEMICAL WEAPONS. REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION CONVENTION, ECKERBERG SAID THAT, WHILE PREFERRING AN ALTERNATE FORMULATION IN SEVERAL PLACES, SWEDEN APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVE COMPROMISE AND WAS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THE TEXT REPORTED BY THE CCD. KISSINGER

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